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OASD DPMO	
Date Received	6 Oct 05
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Distro	Act / Info
Director	_____
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Ext Affairs	_____
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<i>Sima Analyst</i>	_____
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Ayers, D.E. 1574

HEADER

R 060143Z OCT 05

FM CDR JPAC HICKAM AFB HI

TO ZEN/AMEMBASSY HANOI

INFO RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RHEFLGX/SAFE WASHINGTON DC

RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

ZEN/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI

ZEN/CDR USPACOM LO WASHINGTON DC

ZEN/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//DPMO//

ZEN/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

ZEN/JPAC ANNEX CAMP SMITH HI

ZEN/CDR JPAC HICKAM AFB HI

ZEN/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

ZEN/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

BT

CONTROLS

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SECTION 1 OF 2

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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJ: EXCAVATION SUMMARY REPORT OF CASE 1574 (SITE NUMBER VM-01984) CONDUCTED DURING THE 82ND JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (05-4VM)

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SUBJ/EXCAVATION SUMMARY REPORT OF CASE 1574 (SITE NUMBER VM-01984) CONDUCTED DURING THE 82ND JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (05-4VM) IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM//

AKNLDG/COMMENTS IN THIS REPORT ARE NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS//

AMPN REFERENCE A IS MAP DATA: NAME: THUONG DUC; SHEET: 6540 I; SERIES: L7014; EDITION: 1-AMS; SCALE: 1:50,000; DATUM: INDIAN THAILAND 1960//

RMKS/1. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: CASE 1574 INVOLVES THE 19 MARCH 1970 LOSS OF AN AMERICAN MARINE LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL LEADER. ON THAT DAY, THE PATROL MADE POINT TO POINT CONTACT WITH AN ENEMY FORCE APPROXIMATELY 27 MILES SOUTHWEST FROM DANANG. THE PATROL LEADER RECEIVED SEVERAL HITS FROM ENEMY FIRE DURING THIS CONTACT, BUT HIS BODY COULD NOT BE RECOVERED AT THE TIME. SUBSEQUENT RECOVERY EFFORTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. THIS INCIDENT RESULTED IN THE

Reviewed by DPMO

IAW 50 USC 435 Note & DOD 5400.7-R

Date: 04-Jan-2006 Initialed By: R. W.

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LOSS OF ONE UNACCOUNTEDFOR AMERICAN.

2. SITE LOCATION:

A. MAP COORDINATES: 48P ZC 0196 6030.

B. MGRS GRID COORDINATES: 48P ZC 01967 60304 USING INDIAN THAILAND DATUM (ESTIMATED POSITION ERROR +/- 10M) AND 48P ZC 01546 60627 (WGS-84, TRACKING SIX SATELLITES AND ESTIMATED POSITION ERROR +/- 10M).

C. ELEVATION: 392 METERS.

3. SUMMARY OF EXCAVATION: FROM 14 JULY THROUGH 23 JULY 2005, DURING THE 82ND JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (JFA) (05-4VM), RECOVERY TEAM FOUR (RT4) EXCAVATED A GROUND LOSS/SURFACE REMAINS SITE ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1574 IN THE VICINITY OF HIEP AND KA DANG VILLAGES, DONG GIANG DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE. RT4 EXCAVATED APPROXIMATELY 384 SQUARE METERS TO AN AVERAGE DEPTH OF 15-20 CENTIMETERS BELOW SURFACE (CMBS). RT4 CLEARED AND SURFACE SCRAPED AN ADDITIONAL 928 SQUARE METERS TO LOCATE ADDITIONAL CONCENTRATIONS OF EVIDENCE OR REMAINS AND DEFINE THE SITE BOUNDARIES. RT4 RECOVERED POSSIBLE PERSONAL EFFECTS AND POSSIBLE LIFE SUPPORT ITEMS WHICH INCLUDED SUNGLASSES, A PEN, UNIFORM BUTTONS, AND CANTEEN LIDS. IN ADDITION, A WITNESS TURNED OVER A WEB BELT. RT4 RECOVERED NUMEROUS PIECES OF MISCELLANEOUS METAL FRAGMENTS AND SHELL CASINGS ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1574. RT4 RECOVERED EVIDENCE IN THE AREA IDENTIFIED BY WITNESSES FOR THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF THE SURFACE REMAINS AND ON THE SOUTHWEST HALF OF THE RIDGE SLOPE, A DRAINAGE FOR THE RIDGELINE IDENTIFIED THROUGH SURFACE SCRAPING. THE TEAM RECOVERED MOST OF THE EVIDENCE ON THE SURFACE OR WITHIN 5-10 CMBS. ON 23 JULY 2005, THE RECOVERY LEADER (RL) CLOSED THE SITE AND RECOMMENDED NO FURTHER EXCAVATION AT THIS SITE. ON 15 AUGUST 2005, THE JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND-CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY (JPAC-CIL) RECEIVED THE PERSONAL EFFECTS, AND LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AND ASSIGNED THEM ACCESSION NUMBERS CIL 2005-012 AND CIL 2005-013 (UNILATERAL TURNOVER). THE DETAILED JPAC-CIL SEARCH AND RECOVERY REPORT NUMBER IS 2005/CIL/054.

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE.

A. RT4 RECOVERED AND RETAINED THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE PERSONAL EFFECTS:

- (1) POSSIBLE SUNGLASS LENS PORTIONS AND FRAME PIECES
- (2) POSSIBLE PEN
- (3) POSSIBLE BOOT EYELETS AND WATER DRAIN VENT PIECE
- (4) POSSIBLE UNIFORM BUTTONS
- (5) POSSIBLE JUNGLE BOOT PLATE (STEEL)
- (6) POSSIBLE SOCK MATERIAL

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- (7) POSSIBLE SLING BUCKLE
- (8) POSSIBLE PLASTIC RULER

B. RT4 RECOVERED AND RETAINED THE FOLLOWING LIFE SUPPORT ITEMS EFFECTS:

- (1) POSSIBLE "D" RING
- (2) POSSIBLE CANTEEN LID
- (3) POSSIBLE ALICE CLIP PIECES
- (4) POSSIBLE AMMO POUCH BUCKLE
- (5) POSSIBLE CANTEEN LID AND MOUTH
- (6) POSSIBLE SAFETY PIN PIECES

C. RT4 RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LIFE SUPPORT ITEMS FROM A WITNESS TURNOVER:

- (1) POSSIBLE WEB BELT...

D. LIFE SUPPORT INVESTIGATOR COMMENTS: ALL ITEMS RECOVERED ARE GENERIC IN NATURE. THE ITEMS RECOVERED ARE, HOWEVER, CONSISTENT WITH JPAC FILES PERTAINING TO THE INCIDENT THAT TOOK PLACE.

5. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TECHNICIAN COMMENTS:

A. THE EOD TECHNICIAN SWEEPED THE SITE AREA WITH A FISHER MODEL CZ-20 METAL DETECTOR PRIOR TO EXCAVATION. THE TECHNICIAN RECOVERED NO HAZARDOUS ITEMS IN THIS SURVEY.

B. DURING THE COURSE OF EXCAVATIONS, RT4 RECOVERED THE FOLLOWING ORDNANCE-RELATED ITEMS:

- (1) 6 - 5.56MM NATO BRASS CASINGS (EXPENDED)
- (2) 2 - 7.62X39MM BRASS CASINGS (EXPENDED)
- (3) 1 - 20 ROUND M-16 MAGAZINE (EMPTY)

C. THE EOD TECHNICIAN PLACED ALL ITEMS IN THE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) PIT LOCATED AT GRID COORDINATES 48P ZC 01598 60635 (WGS-84) AND NOTIFIED VNOSMP OFFICIALS OF ITS LOCATION.

6. WITNESS STATEMENTS: THE TEAM INTERVIEWED THREE WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION PERTAINING TO CASE 1574:

A. WITNESS ONE:

- (1) NAME: MR. A LANG VACH (A LAWNG VACHS).
- (2) AGE: 55 YEARS OF AGE.
- (3) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: TU NUC

HAMLET (THOON TU NUCS), KA DANG VILLAGE (XAX KAF ZAWNG), DONG GIANG DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE: NOT ASKED.

- (4) CURRENT OCCUPATION: FARMER.

- (5) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: FARMER.

(6) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: AN DIEM (THOON AN ZIEEN) HAMLET, DAI LANH VILLAGE (XAX DAI LANHX), DAI LOC DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****/

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(7) BACKGROUND: PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED ON 60TH JFA.

(8) STATEMENT: WITNESS ONE, MR. A LANG VACH, PROVIDED INFORMATION SIMILAR TO HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT DURING THE 60TH JFA. WITNESS ON SITE 14 JULY 2005.

B. WITNESS TWO:

(1) NAME: MR. A LANG MIENG (A LAWNG MIEENG).

(2) AGE: 60 YEARS OF AGE.

(3) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: A CHOM HAMLET (THOON A CHOOM), KA DANG VILLAGE (XAX KAF ZAWNG), DONG GIANG DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE: 20 YEARS.

(4) CURRENT OCCUPATION: FARMER.

(5) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: SQUAD LEADER FOR LOCAL MILITIA.

(6) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: NGAT HAMLET (THOON NGAATJ), SONG CON VILLAGE (XAX SOONG COON), HIEN DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE.

(7) BACKGROUND: PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED ON 60TH JFA.

(8) STATEMENT: WITNESS TWO, MR. A LANG MIENG, PROVIDED INFORMATION SIMILAR TO HIS STATEMENT DURING THE 60TH JFA. WITNESS ON SITE 18 JULY 2005.

C. WITNESS THREE:

(1) NAME: MR. A LANG TUONG (A LAWNG TWONG).

(2) AGE: 57 YEARS OF AGE.

(3) CURRENT RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: TU NUC HAMLET (TU NUCS), KA DANG VILLAGE (XAX KAF ZAWNG), DONG GIANG DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE: 29 YEARS.

(4) CURRENT OCCUPATION: RETIRED CHAIRMAN COMMISSIONER OF THE VILLAGE PARTY (CHUR TICHJ UYR BAN NHA^N DA^N HUYEENJ).

(5) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: LOCAL MILITIA SQUAD LEADER.

(6) RESIDENCE AT TIME OF INCIDENT: DOI DONG GIANG (DOOIJ DOONG GIANG), HIEN DISTRICT (MILITARY/UNIT POST, FOR DOI DONG GIANG IN HIEN DISTRICT), QUANG NAM PROVINCE.

(7) BACKGROUND: A JOINT TEAM HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED THIS WITNESS.

(8) STATEMENT:

((A)) ON A SUMMER DAY IN 1969 OR 1970 THE WITNESS TOOK PART IN A FIREFIGHT AGAINST A SQUAD OF AMERICAN AND ARVN SOLDIERS. MR. TUONG SERVED IN THE LOCAL MILITIA SECOND SQUAD (B2). LOCAL MILITIA OBSERVED THE HELICOPTER INSERTION OF AMERICAN AND ARVN TROOPS ON TOP OF TROC HILLTOP (DOOIF TROOCJ; LITERALLY "BARREN HILL"), AND HIS GROUP WAS SENT TO INTERCEPT THEM. THE MILITIA

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TROOPS WERE MOVING ALONG THE TOP OF THE RIDGELINE WHILE THE AMERICAN AND ARVN SOLDIERS MOVED ALONG THE SOUTH SLOPE OF THE RIDGELINE. WHENEVER ONE GROUP MADE A NOISE, BOTH GROUPS BECAME AWARE OF THE OTHER'S POSITION. A FIREFIGHT BEGAN. THE LEADER/POINTMAN OF THE AMERICAN PATROL WAS SHOT SEVERAL TIMES AND KILLED. A MR. NHUON (MR. NHWON) IS CREDITED WITH SHOOTING AND KILLING THE AMERICAN. THE REMAINING AMERICAN TEAM MEMBERS RETREATED TO THE LANDING ZONE WHERE THEY WERE EXTRACTED, LEAVING THE PATROL LEADER'S BODY BEHIND. MR. TUONG'S GROUP ALSO RETREATED.

((B)) THE NEXT DAY MR. TUONG'S GROUP RETURNED TO THE RIDGE TOP WHERE THEY STRIPPED THE BODY OF FIELD EQUIPMENT, WEAPONS, AND A RUCKSACK. THESE ITEMS WERE TURNED IN TO THE LOCAL VILLAGE MILITIA HEADQUARTERS IN ADDITION; MR. TUONG REMOVED A WEB BELT FROM THE BODY THAT HE RETAINED AS A WAR SOUVENIR. (NOTE: THE WITNESS TURNED THIS ITEM OVER TO RT4, RETAINED AS EVIDENCE.) ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL, MR. A LANG MIENG (MR. MIEENG), TOOK IDENTIFICATION MEDIA FROM THE BODY. MR. TUONG BELIEVES THIS ITEM HAS BEEN LOST. THE BODY REMAINED ON THE SURFACE, LYING NEAR A TERMITE MOUND ON THE FLAT PART OF THE RIDGE TOP. MR. TUONG'S SQUAD DID NOT BURY THE BODY. THE WITNESS DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY REMAINS EVER BEING FOUND OR REMOVED FROM THE SITE.

((C)) MR. TUONG REMEMBERED THE LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT AND THE AMERICAN'S REMAINS. HE LED THE RL TO THE LOCATION (48P ZC 01549 60635 (WGS-84 TRACKING FIVE SATELLITES, EPE +/- 15M). MR. TUONG KNEW OF NO OTHER INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE LOSS OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN OR OF ANYONE HOLDING REMAINS.

7. REPORT WRITERS:

[REDACTED]

RECOVERY LEADER
EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
(EOD) TECHNICIAN

[REDACTED]

LIFE SUPPORT INVESTIGATOR

ADMIN

BT

#3403

752A

(b) (3)

(b) (6)

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